Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-70 (canceled)

Claim 71 (currently amended): A transgenic plant comprising a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4,

wherein said polypeptide comprises a first conserved domain that is at least 65% identical to amino acids 134-199 of SEQ ID NO: 4, a second conserved domain that is at least 74% identical to amino 332-401 of SEQ ID NO: 4, and a third conserved domain that is at least 60% identical to amino 405-478 of SEQ ID NO: 4; and

wherein expression of the polypeptide in the transgenic plant confers to the transgenic plant greater tolerance to water deprivation as compared to a control plant.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The transgenic plant of claim 71, wherein the polypeptide is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The transgenic plant of claim 71, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 76 (currently amended): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the transgenic plant is more ~~likely to have survived~~ tolerant to a treatment of seven to eight days of a drought ~~treatment~~ stress, or to a treatement of seven to eight days of a drought stress followed by rewatering and two to three days of a recovery period, than the control plant.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises a constitutive, inducible, or tissue-specific promoter that regulates expression of

the polypeptide.

Claim 78 (previously presented): A transgenic seed produced from the transgenic plant of Claim 71.

Claim 79 (new): A transgenic plant comprising a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.